AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second paragraph on page 6, starting at line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Now referring to Fig. 3, a block diagram illustrates the hierarchy of conditions related to a null pointer check in a program during compilation. When a null pointer check 300~~400~~ is encountered two possible conditions can exist. The two conditions are a condition of not null 305 or a condition of null 310. If profile feedback information is gathered as described previously, information is made available that indicates the probability of the pointer being null is often 315 or the probability of the pointer being null is infrequent 320. In the event that the pointer is null infrequently 320, a condition is identified that allows the compiler to improve the speed of the program. Practical application does not require identification of an error condition or an expected scenario when the case occurs of a null pointer being infrequent 320. The specific infrequent occurrence of a null pointer is identified, and compiler 205 of Fig. 2 removes this particular null pointer check from the program and installs an entry in a fault to target translation table. The entry advises the computer to route the program to the uncommon scenario when a fault is caused because the pointer was actually null.